

## Proposed Change in the Operator Certification Regulations

### How will this regulation change affect my certification?

This change will only affect the renewal of interim distribution certificates. Currently an operator must submit their continuing education (CE) contact hours by December 31, 2003 in order to renew their interim distribution certificate. The change would allow the operator an additional year to meet the continuing education requirement.

### Does this affect regular distribution certification or water treatment certification in any way?

No.

### How will the interim renewal process work under the regulation change?

The renewal period for interim distribution certificates is July 1 – September 1, 2003. If a water system applies within the renewal period, pays the renewal fee and submits all the required continuing education (CE) contact hours, the interim certificate will be renewed.

If a water system applies within the renewal period, pays the renewal fee but its operators do not have the required continuing education contact hours, we will issue a letter to the operator and water system. The letter will explain that the interim certificate cannot be renewed until their interim operators meet the CE contact hour requirements, but they have until December 31, 2004 to do so.

### How is that different from the current regulations?

Under the current regulations interim operators have until December 31, 2003 to send in their continuing education contact hours. The revised regulations give them an additional year to meet the continuing education requirements and complete their renewal.

### My interim certificate has an expiration date of January 1, 2004. Can I still work as a certified operator after that date?

If your water system applies to renew your interim certificate, then your original certificate is valid until January 2, 2005. If your water system does not apply to renew your certificate, it will expire on January 1, 2004 and you will no longer be certified.

### What if my water system applies for interim renewal after September 1<sup>st</sup>?

The water system can still renew the interim certificates but a late fee will apply.

#### Renewal Timeframes

- July 1, 2003 – September 1, 2003 – Renewal period for Interim certificates. Water systems can renew their interim operator certificates without late fees.

- September 2, 2003 – November 18, 2003 - \$50 late fee applies to all interim renewals that are not postmarked by September 1, 2003.
- November 19, 2003 – December 31, 2004 - \$100 late fee applies to all interim renewals that are not postmarked by November 18, 2003.
- January 1, 2004 – Expiration date of current interim distribution certificates if the water system has not applied for renewal.
- January 2, 2004 -- Interim certificates that have not been renewed will be suspended for one year unless the water system has applied for renewal and paid the renewal fee. During this period, the suspension can be lifted and the certificate renewed by paying the renewal fee, \$100 late fee, and submitting the required CE contact hours.
- January 2, 2005 – Interim certificates that were not renewed will be revoked.
- January 1, 2007 – All interim certificates are invalid.